

## Claims:

1. A binder for a document or the like comprising:

a base portion;

5 a ring provided on said base portion that can change in its position between a closed ring position for binding a document or the like and an open ring position in which the closed ring is partly opened to allow filing of a document or the like; and

10 a switching mechanism provided on said base portion for switching between said closed ring position and said open ring position,

wherein said switching mechanism includes a switching lever swingably attached to said base portion and is adapted in such a way that when said ring is in  
15 the open ring position, the switching lever can pass through an open portion of the ring.

2. A binder for a document or the like according  
20 to claim 1, wherein said ring comprises a plurality of rings arranged along an longitudinal direction of said base portion with a spacing therebetween, and said switching mechanism is adapted in such a way that when each of said rings is in the open ring position, the  
25 switching lever can pass through an open portion of each ring.

3. A binder for a document or the like according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ring comprises a first ring member and a second ring member, the closed ring position being achieved when their ends are in contact with each other and the open ring position being achieved when their ends are spaced apart from each other.

4. A binder for a document or the like according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the open portion of each of said rings is situated above said base portion and in a central region of said base portion with respect to the shorter length direction of the base portion.

5. A binder for a document or the like according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said switching lever has a base end portion hinged to said base portion and a free end to be handled, said base end portion being provided with a cam portion for adjusting the degree of opening of each of said rings in accordance with the swing position of the free end.

6. A binder for a document or the like according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said base portion has a base body made of a metal plate, a cover portion that rises from the base body in such a way as to cover

a central portion of the base body and a bearing portion provided on the cover portion, said bearing portion constituting a part of a hinge of said switching lever.

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7. A binder for a document or the like according to claim 1, wherein said switching mechanism has two support members arranged side by side on said base portion, each of the support members can be inclined in a sideways direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the base portion, said first ring member is supported on one of the support members, said second ring member is supported on the other of the support members, and between at least one of said support members and the base portion is provided an elastic member that biases the support member(s) in such a direction as to cause the ends of the ring members to move away from each other.

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8. A binder for a document or the like according to claim 7, wherein said support members are constructed in the form of strip-like members made of metal plates having respective one side edge portions and the other side edge portions, one side edge portion of each of the support members is hinged to said base portion, the other side edge portions of the support portions partly overlap each other on the base portion,

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and said elastic member is provided at least between one of the support members and the base portion.

9. A binder for a document or the like according  
5 to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said ring  
comprises two rings arranged along an longitudinal  
direction of said base portion with a spacing  
therebetween; among first ring members and second ring  
members constituting the two rings, each of the first  
10 ring member pair and the second ring member pair is  
formed by bending a single metal wire; a connecting  
portion between the first ring members and a connecting  
portion between the second ring members respectively  
have press portions arranged close to and parallel to  
15 each other in the central region of the base body and  
support portions serving as pivots of the first ring  
members and the second ring members; each support  
portion is supported in a rotatable manner relative to  
said base body; and said press portion is pressed by a  
20 cam portion of said switching lever.

10. A binder for a document or the like according  
to any one of claims 1 to 5 and 9, wherein said base  
portion has a base body made of a metal plate and a  
25 bearing portion provided on a central portion of the  
base body, said bearing member has a bottom plate and  
two standing tabs opposed to each other that rise from

the bottom plate, a base end portion of said switching lever is hinged to both the standing tabs, and said press portion is disposed between said standing tabs.

- 5           11. A binder for a document or the like according to claim 9 or 10, wherein an abutment plate that is movable along the press portion is provided between said press portion and said cam portion, and teeth engaging each other are provided on a surface of the
- 10          abutment plate and a circumferential surface of said cam portion.